

HOUSE RESOLUTION 63

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate The Blues Foundation upon its receipt of the Governor's Arts Award for Folklife Heritage.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to commend those exemplary organizations, which, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have made significant contributions to the arts and brought national acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding institution is The Blues Foundation, which recently received the prestigious Governor's Arts Award in the category of Folklife Heritage for its unwavering commitment to the preservation and propagation of one of Tennessee's richest cultural traditions, namely, the Blues; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1980 and headquartered in Memphis, the Blues Foundation ("Foundation") is the world-renowned epicenter for Blues music and is solely dedicated to protecting Blues history, celebrating Blues excellence, supporting Blues education, and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form; and

WHEREAS, this illustrious organization maintains a multi-national board of directors, 4,200 members, and 195 affiliates, representing more than 50,000 fans and musicians in fifty countries; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, the Foundation hosts a plethora of prominent award ceremonies and events, drawing thousands of musicians and fans to our great State, stimulating our economy, and advancing the public appreciation of Tennessee and its rich musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, the world's most prominent Blues artists have convened in Memphis to witness The Blues Foundation bestow its Blues Music Awards, the highest accolades in the industry; and

WHEREAS, thousands of aspiring musicians compete in the Foundation's International Blues Challenge, going head to head at dozens of regional "battles of the bands" before taking center stage at the world's largest gathering of Blues acts in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Awards and Blues Hall of Fame ceremonies pay tribute to Blues pioneers and legends while its Keeping the Blues Alive Awards honor the vital contributions of behind-the-scenes stars, who truly make the music possible; and

WHEREAS, Blues fans from across the globe will soon be entertained and enlightened with impressive visual art displays and interactive audio presentations at The Blues Foundation's coming tourist attraction, located in the South Main Historic District of Downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, The Blues Foundation offers musicians access to health insurance with Sound Healthcare, and, through its HART Fund, this compassionate and generous institution has provided more than \$70,000 in financial assistance to Blues artists and their loved ones in times of illness, tragedy, and death; and

WHEREAS, in order to foster the love and appreciation of this magnificent genre in future generations, The Blues Foundation sponsors a number of successful youth initiatives, including St. Jude Children's Hospital programming, Children's Festival, BluesKids competition, Blues in the Schools curriculum, and Generation Blues; and

WHEREAS, a Memphis icon and Tennessee treasure, the Blues Foundation has left an indelible impression on the artistic legacy of our great state, and it should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate the owners and dedicated staff of The Blues Foundation upon its receipt of the Governor's Arts Award for Folklife Heritage, commend their extraordinary contributions to the arts, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.